

### **IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) A method of producing a mound of earth (21) on the ground (22) comprising:

- a step of filling a mould (1) with earth, through an opening (5) that the mould comprises;
- a step of placing a cover plate against the opening (5) of ~~on~~ the mould (1);
- a step of turning over the mould (1) and the cover plate on the ground (22);
- a step of removing the cover plate;
- a method during which a recess (24) is produced at the top of the mound (21) by the mould (1) during the moulding of the mound (21) by the mould (1) and characterised in that it comprises a step of partial removal of the mould (1) so as to leave clear access to the recess (24), the remaining part of the mould (1) becoming a mound cover.

2. (currently amended) A method of producing a mound of earth (21) on the ground (22) comprising:

- a step of filling a mould (1) with earth, through an opening (5) that the mould comprises;
- a step of placing a cover plate against the opening (5) of ~~on~~ the mould (1);
- a step of turning over the mould (1) and the cover plate on the ground (22);
- a step of removing the cover plate;
- a step of removing the mould (1);
- a method during which a recess (24) is produced at the top of the mound (21) by the mould (1) during the moulding of the mound (21) by the mould (1) and characterised in that the step of removing the mould (1) is followed by a step of placing a protective mound cover (11) covering the mound (21).

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 characterised in that the recess (24) is a semi-ellipsoid.

4. (new) The method of claim 2 characterised in that the recess (24) is a semi-ellipsoid.

[[4.]] 5. (currently amended) A method of planting a plantlet and its clod (20), comprising:

- a step of producing a mound (21) of earth of claim 1;
- a step of placing the plantlet and its clod (20) in the recess (24) in the mound (21) through an opening (17, 27) in the mound cover (11, 1);

characterised in that the clod (20) and the recess (24) have complementary shapes.

[[5.]] 6. (currently amended) A mould (1) adapted to producing a mound (21) according to the method of claim 1, comprising:

- a truncated cone (4) forming the lateral walls of the mould (1) and comprising an opening (5) intended to fill the cone with earth;
- a surface (7) at the centre of the mould (1);
- a connecting surface (6) forming the bottom of the mould (1) between the truncated cone (4) and the surface (7) extending from the connecting surface (6) towards the inside of the truncated cone (4) in order to produce the recess (24) at the top of the mound (21); and
- a covering plate for the mould (1) intended to be put against the opening (5);

the mould (1) being characterised in that the surface is a semi-ellipsoid.

7. (new) A mould (1) adapted to producing a mound (21) according to the method of claim 2, comprising:

- a truncated cone (4) forming the lateral walls of the mould (1) and comprising an opening (5) intended to fill the cone with earth;
- a surface (7) at the centre of the mould (1);
- a connecting surface (6) forming the bottom of the mould (1) between the truncated cone (4) and the surface (7) extending from the connecting surface (6) towards the inside of the truncated cone (4) in order to produce the recess (24) at the top of the mound (21); and
- a covering plate for the mould (1) intended to be put against the opening (5);

the mould (1) being characterised in that the surface is a semi-ellipsoid.

[[6.]] 8. (currently amended) The mould (1) of claim 5, characterised in that the surface (7) is removable.

[[7.]] 9. (currently amended) The mould (1) of claim 5, characterised in that the connecting surface (6) descends from the truncated cone (4) towards the surface (7).

[[8.]] 10. (currently amended) The mould of claim 7, characterised in that the connecting surface (6) is a truncated cone.

[[9.]] 11. (currently amended) The protective mound cover (11) for a mound (21) of earth produced according to the method of claim 1, comprising:

- a truncated cone (14) forming the lateral walls of the mound cover (11);
- a top surface (16) forming the top of the mound cover (11);

characterised in that the top surface (16) is provided with an opening (17) for access to the recess (24).

[[10.]] 12. (currently amended) The mound cover (11) of claim 9, characterised in that the top surface (16) descends from the truncated cone (14) towards the opening (17).

[[11.]] 13. (currently amended) The mound cover (11) of claim 10, characterised in that the top surface (16) is a truncated cone.